

#2
An Inaugural Dissertation
on

Dysentery:

Submitted to the examination of

Provest

The Trustees and Medical Professors of
The University of Pennsylvania.

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine

On the day of A.D. 1811

By John J. Lansing, A. B.

of Albany, New York.

The important facts

of the

relation to the examination

and

the nature and extent of the

the history of the

the term of the

the

The

the

the
=en
the
a
=sh
of
y. ju
he
=ing
an
en
nu
ag
th
is

37

Upon a subject which has employed
the pens of the ablest and most enlight-
-ened authors from Hippocrates down to
the present day, it cannot be expected that
a young man just issuing from his student-
-ship, and inexperienced in the phenomena
of diseases, should throw ~~much~~ new light. The
✓ principle merit of this essay (if any should
be attached to it) shall consist in its bring-
-ing into a concise view the knowledge the
author has derived from the writings and
experience of others.

The dysentery is a disease which has
made its appearance even in the earliest
ages of antiquity; numerous have been
the failures of the best concerted plans from
its influence, and the different countries

of
son
-luc
he
he
-ing
the
-ce
mo
G
san
-ig
che
tin
the

of Europe still lament the loss of her brave
sons who have fallen victims to this des-
tructive disease. Sydenham and others
have considered it as a Remittent or
intermittent fever turned upon the bowels.

This may be infered. 1st From its appear-
ing in the same season of the year at which
these fevers usually appear. 2^d From its suc-
ceeding similar circumstances in the at-
mosphere to those which ^{usually} precede these fevers.

3^d From its being accompanied with the
same symptoms which usually charac-
terize those fevers. 4th From its alternating with
them, and its being Epidemick at the same
time and place with them.

The word dysentery is derived from
the Greek word *Dysenteria*, which is derived

from
inter-
-men
it's
the
these
In t
used
accor
much
this
that
any
disc
in t
mon
apke

from Duo with difficulty and ERTEGA the
intestines, importing a difficulty or change-
ment in the functions of those organs. By
it Hippocrates signified an ulceration of
the intestines and all bloody discharges from
them. Galen followed him in his error.

In the time of Celsus the word *Formina* was
used to signify an ulceration of the intestines
accompanied with tenesmus, griping, and
mucous, and bloody stools; he then adds that
this was the dysentery of the Greeks. So
that Celsus was the first who gave any
any thing like a precise character of this
disease. It generally makes its appearance
in the last summer or first autumnal
months; though Sir John Pringle^{says}, it may
appear at an earlier period, but custom

paniced
 the
 some
 = low
 great
 Flati
 the
 suble
 back
 some
 of dia
 = pane
 stage
 by the
 2^d M
 from

51
-panied with much milder symptoms than
those which attend the dysenteries which
come on at a later period. It commonly fol-
-lows wet and cold weather succeeding to
great heat. Its promonitory signs are, 1st
Flatulency, supposed to be derived from
✓ the Putrefaction of the blood, mucus, and other
substances in the *Prima via*. 2^d Pains in the
✓ back and loins. 3^d Mucilaginous stools. 4th
Sometimes comes on with the symptoms
of diarrhea. 5th It is most generally accom-
-panied with symptoms of the forming
stage of fevers. When formed it is known
by the following symptoms. 1st Gripes.
2^d Stools, these are different and proceed
from different causes. 1st Blood and mucus

The Bio.

—Tues

etc

the

Low

100

12

42

1999

— 474 —

Col.

file

Alle

662

The blood is supposed to be derived from a sub-
-stance of the vessels of the intestines. Sometimes
it is in small quantities and is streaked on
the mucus; it is then said to come from the
lower intestines; but when it appears more
equally diffused, it is said to be derived from
the upper intestines. 1st Blood and faces.
3^d Faces, blood and mucus. 1th Scibolla, sup-
-posed to be derived from the Colon after
having been confined in its vessels by the
constriction in their coats. 1th A mem-
-brane formed by the very matter of mucus,
and supposed to be the consequence of ^{the constriction}
from the resemblance it bears to the
membrane found in the Fashia &c.
derived from Cyran. he has been is.

6
-up
-put
-un
-A
-la
-lit
-un
-ne
-it
-in
-the
-the
-g'a
-over
-cles

6th The source of the blood in John Single
appears to us to be derived from the up-
per part of the intestines. 7th It is ure-
miasis, urææ, which Doct^r Hunter ap-
pears to be the first discharge from the
liver which is found in the intes-
tines after death. 8th Thomas Doct^r Syden-
ham describes a dysentery accompanied
with stools, but attended with se-
vere gripings and considerable fever.
In this case, "It is probable that the force of"
"the disease in the bowels, first prostrates"
"their action so as to prevent the discharge"
"of any of the contents of the intestines, a"
"pparently to the analogy of several other"
"diseases. It supposes the force of the

"use

hence

in a

seiz

suca

or by

as if

thine

to the

by u

the

the

for

sym

the

to the

a pr

"*anasea* may be called *acty dysenteria*." Some authors have described a dysentery in which the patient is immediately seized with a desire to go to stool upon swallowing any thing whether solid or liquid, accompanied with a sensation as if what was swallowed was running through the bowels. This is to be attributed to the great irritability of the intestines, by which an impression made upon the stomach is propagated throughout the whole alimentary canal. This affords a striking example of the great sympathy which prevails between ~~the~~ the stomach and the intestines down to the rectum. Some authors describe a *proscindencia ani* and a *stercoraria*.

as 4

and

with

ing

tho

the

ing

W

La

the

the

the

the

the

the

and

as symptoms of this disease. The first is the
consequence of the violent Strainings; the 2^d
arises from the inflammation, spreading
from the rectum to the neck of the
Bladder.

As the most striking appearances of
the bowels after death tend greatly to
improve our knowledge of this disease,
I shall avail myself of the information
I have been able to obtain, from books on
this subject. Upon a first view, says De-
haener, the bowels appear irregularly con-
tracted, particularly the colon; and they
appear redder than is natural at the con-
tracted part. Upon a nearer inspection,
after having cut out part of the intestine,
and upon examining the interior, the

1848

14. 15.

Scuro

66

diffa

14601-1

Under

the

Alina

A. A. B. B.

234

Apr 18/80

10 2 2 2 2

See also

1898

244 c/

1888

Yucca

 $\alpha/\beta/\gamma$

200

40. *Id. id.*

appearance of disease becomes more obvious. There
are then to be seen, tubercles like pustules
sometimes in a greater and some times in
a less number. They appear different in their
different stages. Their progress appears to be
nearly as follows: There is first a small round
tubercle of a reddish colour, and not more
than one tenth of an inch in diameter. It
then increases and becomes paler as it be-
comes larger. In this stage there appears
a small crack on the top with a slight de-
pression which gradually increases. Upon ex-
amination it is found to contain a cheese like
substance, and is seated between the muscu-
lar and villous coats of the intestine. As
the opening becomes larger the base becomes
rough, and discharges a matter which is fre-
quently tinged with blood. They sometimes
appear single though frequently in clusters.

Sometimes the intestines show ~~no~~
no marks of disease. This is in consequence of
what has been called the dry dysentery.

interest

-ter so

he did

A fu

which

has of

my co

The c

abrac

(

faith

-ted to

on the

ment

this a

which

-ry is

enup

miss

but

Sometimes it has been said that the intestines exhibit marks of gangrene. Dr Hunter says that in all the dissections he made he did not discover this appearance in one. He further remarks that the appearance which arises from extravasation of blood has often been mistaken for gangrene.

Doct. Black mentions that in many cases the liver and spleen were diseased. The inner coat of the intestines has been found abraded.

(Diagnosis. After having a minute and faithful history of the disease as I have collected it from the most approved authors on the subject, it will become necessary to mention some characteristic marks by which this disease may be known from others with which it may be confounded. The dysentery is not likely to be mistaken for any disease except it be Typhus. From this it may be distinguished by its being accompanied with small but frequent stools of a slimy and tenacious

1
from
not
com
which
suffi
des

dispo
any
purch
by
all
is
less
a
the
This
with
in

1st By the temperature existing which occasions
many it. 2nd By the degree of heat, though there are
not always present. 3rd By the place which ac-
companies it. 4th The dysentery is contagious
while the diarrhoea is not. These marks serve
sufficiently to distinguish it from all other
diseases.

Remote Cause. By the remote cause of
dysentery, I mean any thing which acting on
any part of the body produces a debility or predis-
position to disease in the intestines. Doctor
Sydenham seems to refer the cause of dysentery
altogether to the air and calls it an "Epidemic
in the constitution of the atmosphere". Syden-
ham seems to derive it from the state of the weather
or during the winter and spring preceding
the summer in which the dysentery prevails.
Thus, says he, After an unusually dry winter
with northerly winds, if a rainy spring succeeds
with southerly winds, dysentery will prevail
in the summer.

The causes to which dysentery is due

is most commonly attributed in sudden times an-
1st Great heat preceding cold and moist weather,
this acts by stopping perspiration, and giving
the acid fluids a contripetal direction.
2^d The want of vegetable aliment, and also the
want of a moderate quantity of fermented liquor.
3^d want of cleanliness. 4th the use of putrid meat
and water. Doctor Hunter mentions that in the
island of Jamaica the water becomes quite
putrid before it is drank; owing to its being kept
in cisterns in which millions of insects breed. We
can easily imagine that such water when drank
may induce debility of the intestines to which it
is immediately applied - 5th Frogs and Solenomi-
-ascula. any of the causes already mentioned acting
upon the system may produce the predisposing
cause or debility in the intestines.

The system being now prepared for disease,
the application of any of the Exciting Causes
may produce dysentery. But, it may be asked, why
should the exciting cause produce dysentery
in preference to a more general disease, or

ble
to be
be
then
it is
me
as
the
the
The
are
some
made
love
and
near
to
on

Intermittent or Remittent fever, since both are said
to be derived from the same causes it is very likely it may
be remarked that the exciting causes often do not
then produce fever and that when they produce dysentery
it is to be referred to a law in the animal Econo-
my, viz. That diseases attack the weakest parts,
as is the case ^{in dysentery} which most frequently attacks the
great toe; and also in creating an artificial weak
part, as has been done in mania by frequent
purges, the excitement becomes translated from
the brain to the intestines and creates a diarrhoea.

The most general exciting causes of this disease
are a repetition of the application of any of the
remote causes already ^{mentioned} also Hoem and Pleo meas-
mala, Intoxication, distemper, &c. and has been
brought on by purges. The smell of putrid meat
and putrid blood have induced it.

Cure The dysentery sometimes ap-
pears in so mild a form that a gentle cathartic
is with advantage after copiousness will put
an immediate stop to its progress.

But
to drive
the sea
and the
R
day in
for
and for
other
be de
of the
ing
to have
sed in
fever
Gall
the year
Hence
anti
the go
in
is in

But in the majority of cases the case is more tedious and difficult, and is to be regulated by the season of the year, the state of the system, and the symptoms present.

Blood letting is a safe and necessary remedy in many cases of dysentery. It removes the pathological diathesis and relieves the pain and pulse in a shorter time than any of the other antipathogenic measures. The use of it must be determined by the pulse and constitution of the patient, and by the nature of the prevailing Epidemic. Peter Rossi has bled from the rectum twenty two times in dysentery which prevailed in this city at the same time with yellow fever -

Cathartics have in the remedium, upon which the greatest reliance is to be placed in this disease. Next to blood letting they are the most powerful antipathotics, and they afford immediate ^{relief} from the purging and other symptoms. As to the choice of purges there seems to be nothing special in the action of them. It is only necessary

that
=ly, 's
sweet
and u
phus
love
otion
high
from
ment
Abul
this a
if in
-dation
the A
some
as an
More
them
sick
two, but
or me

that they operate easily, speedily and effectually.
But such cases are few; as castor oil,
sweet oil, fresh butter, mi. s. fresh butter, linseed
and mclapier, the Saper Sarsaparilla of Potash, are still
found when the disease runs sear in the
lower bowels. The sulphate of soda in combina-
tion with manna has of late been thought
highly of by the writers on dysentery, and
from its possessing the qualities I have above
mentioned I have no doubt of its efficacy.
Rhubarb and calomel having been used in
this disease, and seem to have been the practice
of Sir John Mingle; he supposes that the ad-
ministration of calomel rendered the operation of
the Rhubarb more mild.

Yonics have of late years fallen into disuse
as antispasmodic medicines. Though Doctor
Morley placed his principal reliance upon
them, he used them as diaphoretics. That the
sick are somewhat relieved by ^{them} cannot be dispu-
ted, but the benefit is not so great as that ob-
tained from purgatives; which are more

easy
the
se
not
my the
h
ted, c
with
H
with
not
with
only
-ity
men
men
ting
chate
reque

easy and effectual in their operation. Besides
the sickness produced by an emetic is often
very distressing, and it proves most benefi-
cial when it proves purgative; and accord-
ingly they have been used in small doses with
a view to their purgative effects. The cre-
ta of antimony ^{and} James's Powder have been
highly recommended, but Ipecac. and tartre
of antimony have been found equally useful.
Doctor Barton has found Ipecac. combined
with opium and creta to be singularly use-
ful in that kind of dysentery accompanied
with bloody stools.

But emetics as emetics are
only proper when nature shows a tenden-
cy to relieve herself by the stomach.

Blisters. After the remedies already
enumerated have failed, blisters to the abdo-
men have an excellent effect in transla-
ting excitement to the skin. They give imme-
diate relief to the griping, and diminish the
frequency of the stools.

Phila

ulic

use

-hilit

/en

-tas

from

" m

-las

ash

/ b

mal

-lia

-T

-a

may

-ly

large

there

-sist

d. ucl

Opials. There is no part of the practice concerning
which authors are more divided than in the
use of opiates in the dysentery. This early ex-
hibition has I believe met the disapprobation
of every experienced practitioner. Hippocra-
tes mentions the evil consequences resulting
from stopping a flux too soon in these disorders.
"Intempestive suppressa intestinum difficul-
tates abire possunt. in costis aut in visceribus aut
articulis inducit." Galen also mentions vomiting
of blood, Epilepsy, Dropsy, and a number of other
maladies.

Sydenham placed his principal re-
=liance upon them, while others of great au-
=thority condemn them, though not all reject
=them. It is almost universally agreed that they
may be used after the bowels have been thorough-
=ly cleansed. They are now to be given in
large doses during the ~~evening~~ night, and small
during the day. Diet. This should con-
=sist of mucilaginous vegetables, as Barley,
quell, Sago, Pudding, and light broths.

The
nature
of his
and
is p
-tory
occu
is to
thos
-ed
time
obse
me
your
the
you

177
The drinks should also be of a mucilaginous nature, as Rice water, barley water, decoction of hartshorn, and decoction made of starch and gum arabic.

What has hitherto been said of the cure is principally applicable to the inflammatory stage of this disease. But it sometimes occurs in a typhoid or Typhus form, and is to be treated in the same manner as those states of fever are treated -

Having now, Gentlemen, finished what my feeble abilities, and the short time allotted to me, would permit me, to observe on the subject of dysentery, Allow me to tender you my warmest wishes for your future happiness and welfare, and for the prosperity of the institution over which you Preside.

